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Jelinek warns businesses of fraudulent hand-washing signs

LANSING – Sen. Ron Jelinek is warning local businesses about a misleading and potentially fraudulent notice being distributed telling businesses they might be fined for not complying with ‘a new hand washing sign posting requirement.’ What isn’t mentioned is that the information and/or signs are available for free from the state or federal government.

The notices are from the “Michigan Food Service Compliance Center,” a company that is not affiliated with the state in any way, and incorrectly quote sections of the federal and state food codes. The notices attempt to tell businesses they may be fined for not complying with the ‘new’ regulations or failing to have signs with the ‘exact specifications.’ Businesses are told they can ‘achieve compliance’ by purchasing signs for \$19.95.

According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, only food establishments are required to have signs, not other businesses. Also, the Michigan Food Code only requires signs be legible and posted in the correct place.

“We have been told by the state that this company is misleading businesses by intimidating companies into buying its products under false pretenses,” said Jelinek, R-Three Oaks. “I want to let our local businesses know that this will not be tolerated and they should contact the state Attorney General’s office (517-373-1140) or Department of Community Health (517-241-2112) if they have questions.”

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